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Date 01.08.07

Submission 11B 600 a/npa	Application No./Patent No. 05012688.5 - 1219
Applicant/Proprietor Tyco Healthcare Group LP	

## Communication

The partial European search report (R. 46 EPC) is enclosed.

The applicant is informed that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention(s) already searched and for which a meaningful search can be carried out, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, in the present instance

## 2 search fees

within one month after notification of this communication.

The amount payable for a search fee is EUR 1000,- (OJ EPO 2006, 496).

If applicable, a European search opinion covering those invention(s) for which a search fee has been paid will then be sent together with the European search report.

Copies of documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of such documents is (are) enclosed as well.

The following have been approved:

☒ Abstract ☒ Title

☐ the Abstract was modified and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

## Note to the users of the automatic debiting procedure

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement No.2 to Official Journal No.01/2006.





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**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**  
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent  
Convention

Application Number  
EP 06 01 2688

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
X	US 4 824 871 A (STEPHENSON MARTIN) 24 May 1977 (1977-05-24)	1,2,4-6, 9,15,16, 19,22 11-14
Y	* column 1, lines 10-15 * * column 2, lines 20-25,35-68 * * column 3, lines 1-18 * * column 5, lines 56-66 * * column 7, lines 47-50,58-61 *	
X	WO 00/57933 A (UNIV COLUMBIA [US]) 5 October 2000 (2000-10-05) * page 3, lines 25-30 * * page 4, lines 1-5 * * page 6, lines 10-18 * * page 7, lines 10-13 * * page 9, lines 24-26 * * page 12, lines 22-31 * * page 14, lines 23-29 * * page 17, lines 15-25 * * claim 1 *	1-7,15, 16,22
----- -/-		
		TECHNICAL FIELD SEARCHED (IPC) A61L
<b>LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION</b> <p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p>		
<p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>		
4	Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 25 July 2007
		Examiner VAN DEN BULCKE, H
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background C: non-relevant document P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application I: document cited for other reasons S: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>		

European Patent  
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## PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 01 2688

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 6 106 505 A (MODAK SHANTA [US] ET AL) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) * column 2, lines 43-56 * * column 3, lines 21-27 * * column 4, lines 1-11 * * column 6, lines 19-33 * * claims 1,34,38,39 * * column 7, lines 41-46 * -----	1-7,15, 16,22	
X	EP 0 499 048 A1 (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP [US]) 19 August 1992 (1992-08-19) -----	1,2,5,6, 8,10, 15-18,22 11-14	
Y	* page 2, lines 18-25 * * page 2, line 52 - page 3, line 9 * * page 3, lines 37-40 * * page 6, lines 32-40 * * page 7, lines 42-47 * * page 8, lines 22-25 * * claims 2,10,17 * -----		TECHNICAL FIELD SEARCHED (IPC)
A	EP 0 647 452 A1 (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP [US]) 12 April 1995 (1995-04-12) * page 1, lines 23-28,45-57 * * page 2, lines 14-20,34-37,48-52 * * page 4, lines 14-21 * -----	11	

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EPIC FORM 1600 (04/00) (P.005/008)

European Patent  
OfficeINCOMPLETE SEARCH  
SHEET CApplication Number  
EP 06 01 2688

Although claim 22 is directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body (Article 52(4) EPC), the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

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Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

Article 52 (4) EPC - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

European Patent  
OfficeLACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET BApplication Number  
EP 06 01 2688

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

## 1. claims: 1-19,22

A method comprising providing an antimicrobial multifilament suture permeated with an antimicrobial solution with an antimicrobial coating and the corresponding suture.

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## 2. claims: 20,21

An antimicrobial composition comprising an antiseptic, a film-forming polymer and a salt of a fatty acid ester

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## 3. claims: 23-31

A braided suture comprising a film-forming polymer and a salt of a fatty acid ester.

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# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 06 01 2688

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as cited in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

25-07-2007

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82